

MINUTES
City of Monona
Landmarks Commission
Wednesday March 11, 2020

Chair Kuhr called the meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission to order at 4:33 PM.

Present: Chair Jennifer Kuhr, Mr. Rick Bernstein, Ms. Anne Wellman, Ms. Mary Murrell, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Mr. Erik Lincoln and Ms. Branda Weix

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Holmquist, for the approval of the minutes of February 12, 2020 carried with one correction.

Appearances

There were no appearances.

Unfinished Business

A. Discussion and Potential Acceptance of Springhaven Pagoda, 4659 Tonyawatha Trail and 4811 Tonyawatha Trail Landmark Documentation

Chair Kuhr provided a brief overview to the Commission of the process for acceptance of the landmark documentation. These have been discussed, reviewed and now are considered for acceptance into City files for future use. Ms. Holmquist asked for both the Historic Name and the Common Name to be used. Planner Plowman clarified that there will be photographs included in the documentation, and that these will be evolving files.

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Ms. Murrell, to accept the Landmark Documentation for Springhaven Pagoda, 4659 Tonyawatha Trail and 4811 Tonyawatha with proposed revisions to the naming.

The motion carried.

B. Discussion of 706 W Dean Avenue and 5805 Winnequah Rd Landmark Documentation

City Planner Plowman shared an update on the property application for 706 W Dean. At the request of the Commission he met with the property owner and gathered more information on the home. This draft was included in the meeting materials. Ms. Wellman shared that she thought the property was significant for its association with a 40-acre portion of land for Blooming Grove. There was Commission discussion of the period of significance and if this would be eligible as an early establishment. The loss of both the poultry house and the associated land were points of concern for the Commission, as were the property modifications and loss of defining features. Ms. Murrell asked if it could be considered a landmark site rather than structure. The Ordinance gives the Commission purview over locations and sites as well as structures.

Discussion moved to the possibility of making this an honorary landmark given it may not meet the current criteria. Chair Kuhr asked for staff to consult with the City Attorney on this matter, as it may require an Ordinance revision.

The property at 5805 Winnequah Road was then discussed. Ms. Murrell asked the Commission if it was known if the owners have done everything but register this on the National Register. Mr. Bernstein responded that the process for tax credits is much shorter and less involved than the nomination process. Ms. Murrell asked if this application information could be included in the packet given it will contain a lot of information on the property. City Planner Plowman will look for these materials and share at the next meeting.

- C. Discussion and Potential Action directing Staff to prepare a statement regarding the potential preservation efforts at the San Damiano property located at 4123 Monona Drive**
Planner Plowman provided an overview of this request from the February Landmarks Meeting for a statement from the Commission regarding the property. Since the meeting the City Council have entered a 4-month agreement to explore potential community partnerships.

Discussion was opened up to what sort of statement may be made. Ms. Murrell shared that she hopes the Commission can be one of the groups to work with the City on the initiative. There was discussion of the timing of the statement, and what role it would have. There was discussion of other opportunities for Commission involvement, including reviewing documentation for this property as they have been for others. Consensus was for this to be considered at the next regular meeting. Ms. Murrell didn't see the harm in a statement, and suggested a draft be prepared by Staff for the April meeting.

New Business

- A. Discussion of 4500 Winnequah Rd – Monona Landmark Property**

Ms. Holmquist suggested sharing the additional information from the recently completed Architectural Survey with the State Historical Society so they can update their webpage on this property. The property design was discussed, and how it exemplifies the garage use. The garage door while not original, was a replacement for windows so the structural differences are not significant. Commission members suggested Staff investigate the materials further, and see if any additional information can be gathered. Further, it was requested if additional photographs can be obtained to provide greater context for the file.

B. Staff Updates

- i. Springhaven Pagoda joint meeting with Parks & Recreation Board – April 7, 2020**

It is tentatively planned that a joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Board will be held on April 7th. The Commission are keen to meet and ensure the Pagoda is a part of future park plans. The date is not finalized as this is election night, and Staff will communicate with the Commission closer to the meeting.

Mr. Bernstein also shared that he has been working with a local firm to obtain a scan of the Pagoda. The existing scan that exists for the property isn't sufficient to solicit bids, and so additional resources are needed. This will be discussed in greater detail at an upcoming meeting.

- ii. Certified Local Government Grant – Nominations to National Register**

Planner Plowman updated the Commission that the City has been successful in their application for \$25,000 CLG grant funding for National Register nominations based on the 2019 Historical Survey. The final agreement still needs to be signed, but it is expected to move forward. Discussions will take place with the Commission for criteria to prioritize applications should interest outpace funding. Further details will follow and the Commission will be involved with selecting the consultant who will prepare the report.

Minutes Approved on May 13, 2020

Mr. Bernstein also provided an update on a presentation he gave at the Historic Blooming Grove History Club. Ann Waidelich had asked he present findings of the CLG report.

There was a broader discussion from Commission members regarding representation outside of meetings, and clarifying who you are representing. Chair Kuhr asked City Planner Plowman to contact the City Attorney for guidance that can be shared with City Commission members.

Upcoming meetings

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 7, 2020 (Joint meeting with Parks & Recreation Board) and May 13, 2020.

Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Holmquist, to adjourn carried. (6:04pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner